

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

On Wednesday, May 15, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and I, along with Council Chair Linda Cropp, several members of the DC Council, an extended coalition of the business community, and local constituents met with Senator Tom Daschle and other members of Congress.

Our goal was to lobby for that which has eluded us for far too long – full voting rights in Congress.

The facts are clear. District residents pay more than \$2 billion in taxes to the federal government every year. Our population exceeds that of several states. Plus, we provide critical protection and support every day so our country's leaders can do the nation's business.

Yet taxation without representation still exists in the District of Columbia – we do not have a vote in the House or the Senate. It's not just a bureaucratic oddity. This is a civil rights violation.

It is unacceptable that District residents are denied equality and justice in the halls of Congress in this city where Martin Luther King marched the to the Lincoln Memorial and preached his vision for equality and justice.

It is unacceptable that here in the capital of democracy lives one of the largest blocs of disenfranchised voters in the free world.

It is unacceptable that District residents fight abroad for freedom – and when they return home, they cannot exercise the most basic expression of democracy.

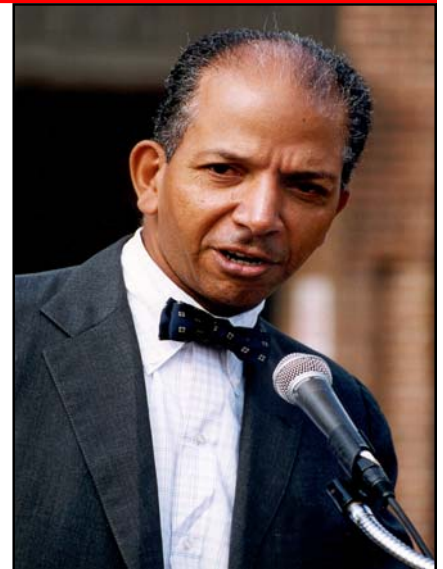
Without full representation, we cannot fight against Congress' power to nullify our local laws and disapprove our budget that is funded primarily from locally raised revenues. Without full representation, we cannot address the structural imbalance in our financial relationship with the federal government that causes the District to shoulder \$450 million in state costs without a state tax base to support them, or prevents us from taxing the more than one million non-residents who use our services every day.

It's happened for so long, that we've gotten used to it. But that doesn't mean it's right. It's time for it to end.

This year, we see real promise. On May 23, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on the Taxation without Representation Act, which was introduced by Senator Joseph Lieberman.

America is realizing that this affront to democracy cannot continue. Seventy-two percent of Americans agree that the District should have a vote in both the House and the Senate. The National League of Cities has expressed support. The city councils of Chicago, Philadelphia, and Detroit have all expressed their support, and Congress, reflecting America, is beginning to take note. Our meetings with Congressional leaders were productive. Senator Daschle expressed his support on May 15.

In his civil rights address, President Kennedy declared from his desk in the White House, "This Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free." It's time to put those words into action. It's time to make the citizens who live in the shadow of the White House truly free. It's time to give Congresswoman Norton what she once had and has always deserved – the right to cast a vote representing the residents of the District of Columbia.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

Community Spotlight

The District Says Goodbye to a Dedicated Community Servant

"When one thinks of Talmadge Moore, the word 'dedication' comes to mind," said E. Veronica Pace, executive director of the DC Office on Aging. "He was dedicated to the Commission on Aging; dedicated to the residents of the District; particularly our elders and youth, dedicated to his church; and dedicated to his family and friends."

Talmadge Moore was a commissioner with the DC Commission on Aging who passed away recently, and he will be truly missed. He served on the Commission on Aging for five years, and was readying himself to attend a Commission on Aging meeting when he became ill and was hospitalized. During his tenure on the commission, he was tireless and always outspoken and adamant in his belief that the elderly deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. He thought that the elderly should serve as mentors – he himself was a mentor to many students. He also served as the commission's chaplain and was a member of the legislative and long-term care committees. He once said that his tenure on the Aging Commission allowed him to develop a deeper appreciation for the growing concerns and problems that confront older residents.

Talmadge Moore had a history of public service – he was an advisory neighborhood commissioner, chapter vice president with the American Association of Retired Persons, president of the Northeast Community Development Corporation and a member of the District's Board of Social Work. He graduated from Howard University with a bachelor of arts degree in Sociology, and he retired as a lieutenant colonel from the US Army. He retired from the private sector in 1981 as chairman of Bell Career Development Center's Guidance and Counseling Department.

Talmadge Moore sets an example for us to follow, and our city was fortunate to have had him as such an active and compassionate advocate for the elderly.



Child Support Enforcement

Children need our support – especially in the unfortunate circumstance when both parents are not physically there to support them. On May 16, we took a step towards supporting District children by presenting new initiatives to ensure that children receive the financial assistance they deserve from their parents.

Tonight, nearly 40 percent of American children will go to sleep in homes without their fathers. In the District, that adds up to over 15,000 cases of non-support, totaling \$100 million in delinquent payments.

Councilmember David Catania's Child Support Enforcement Act makes failure to pay child support a crime punishable by up to six months in jail. Our Office of Corporation Counsel has filed criminal contempt charges against several egregious offenders who have failed to pay child support for more than a year or owe more than \$5,000, because our message is clear – we will not tolerate parents who do not support their children.

We must give fathers the tools they need to meet their child support obligations. After all, dead-broke dads do not have to be deadbeat dads. On May 27-29, we will present the District of Columbia's Fatherhood Initiative. We are combining the resources of national fatherhood experts, District agencies, and our local community service partners to help address the needs of fathers and families. Our goal with this initiative is not only to support children – but also to support the parents who can help them.

Contracting Advice

If you are planning to make some repairs to your home that will require a home improvement contractor, the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) advises you to do your homework first. Call the DCRA Information Center at (202) 442-4400 to obtain important information about your home improvement contractor.

Before signing a contract, all consumers should check to determine if a home improvement contractor is licensed to do business in the city. In addition, before signing a contract consumers should check to determine if a complaint has been filed against the home improvement company or the individual contractor. Make sure that your contractor has all of the necessary permits and be sure the contractor states clearly who is responsible for obtaining and/or paying for the permits.

Finally, never sign a contract or give a deposit to a contractor until you have thoroughly checked out the company and its references. Doing your homework could save you from unscrupulous home improvement contractors.



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

District Breaks Ground on Two New Parks

On April 29, the city launched a \$150 million, five-year renovation project for several District playgrounds, recreation centers, and swimming pools. The new recreation centers, playgrounds, and gymnasiums are not only welcome assets to the community, but they are also symbols of the rebirth and growth of our neighborhoods throughout the city.



One of the first centers to be renovated as part of this citywide initiative was the 1st and Florida playground. The surrounding community's involvement was key to the success of this project. More than a year ago, we heard the concerns of our residents. They called for playground improvements. We are answering their calls with this renovation. The 1st and Florida playground will have two age-specific recreation areas, and renovations will be made to the basketball court, benches, and fences.

Sherwood Recreation Center, located at 10th and G Streets, NE, will become a new state-of-the-art facility. Rich in history, the center was one of the most popular locations for DC street basketball in the 1960's. Prior to 1999, Sherwood Recreation Center consisted of a one-room schoolhouse. The indoor facility was inadequate to meet the needs of the community. The center was demolished nearly two years ago in anticipation of the new recreation center, which is set to open in January 2003. The new facility will consist of more than 20,000 square feet with hardwood courts, showers, fitness rooms, a multi-purpose room and social hall. The renovation will cost approximately \$4.5 million.

For further information, visit the Department of Parks and Recreation website at www.dpr.gov.

District Activities



Mayor Williams, Senator Tom Daschle, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and DC Council Chair Linda Cropp pose before meeting with members of Congress to discuss DC voting rights during Lobby Day on Capitol Hill



Mayor Williams joins kids at DC 2012 Youth Sports Day at RFK Stadium.

Community News

- [Nominations Open For Mayor's Community Service Awards](#)
- [Banneker Student Joins Mayor At "Glocalization" Conference In Rome](#)
- [Mayor Sends RFP For Existing Convention Center Site To Council](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.



Upcoming Events

05/29	Office of Asian and Pacific Islanders Affairs Heritage Month Celebration Martin Luther King Library 901 G Street, NW 4:00 pm
05/30	Panel Discussion with Religious Leaders and Agency Directors Washington Hebrew Congregation 3935 Macomb Street, NW 8:00 am - 12 noon Ward 8 Senior Town Hall Meeting Senior Wellness Center 3500 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
06/05	Michigan Park Citizens Association Bunker Hill Elementary School 1400 Michigan Avenue, NE 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Community Business Forum Marshall Heights Community Development Organization 3939 Benning Road, NE 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
06/06	Ward 6 Senior Town Hall Meeting Calvary Episcopal Church 820 6th Street, SE 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

